

The Sunrise Project:

An NII Prototype

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Vision for a 21st Century Information Infrastructure*

- **The information infrastructure can be divided into four interdependent parts:**
 - a set of widely accessible and interoperable communications networks;
 - digital libraries, information databases and services;
 - easy to use information appliances and computer systems;
 - and trained people who can build, operate and maintain these resources.
- **What is important is the ability to assemble all the necessary technical elements on demand to satisfy market needs**

*Council on Competitiveness, May 1993

Rationale for IITA at Los Alamos

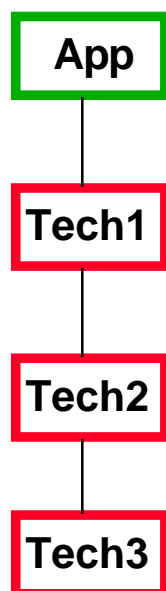
- Build on existing HPCC capability for National Information Infrastructure Technology and Applications (IITA) for the Laboratory and the Dept of Energy.
- Develop advanced environment to enhance competitiveness of lab technical programs.
- High Performance Computing applications are an important driver for information technologies: GRACCE → NII
 - large datasets are good prototype for future data by consumers
- Necessary vehicle for bringing results of HPCC program to the nation.

Approach

- **Combine the primary set of enabling technologies with a modest set of applications.**
- **Prove that modern information technologies can actually assist in significant application areas.**
- **Provide common solutions by recognizing overlapping requirements of these applications.**
- **Make High Performance Computing Initiative results more generally available.**

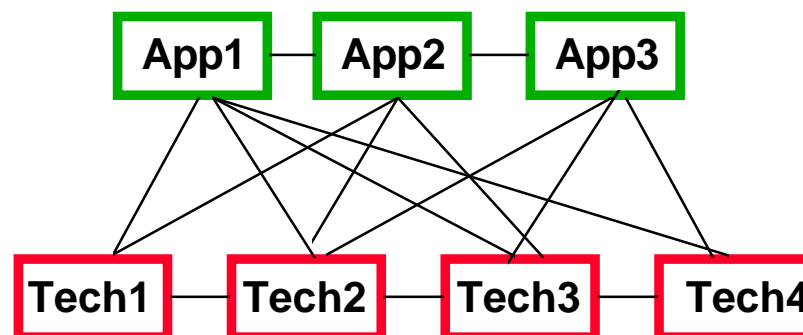
Approach

Vertical Integration



- Efficient for given domain
- Not always scalable

Horizontal Integration



- Common tools identified
- Infrastructure clearly delineated
- Scalable solutions

Characteristics of Sunrise

- **Heterogeneous:**
 - Variety of software and hardware components to solution
- **Institutionally-Integrated:**
 - Cut across a range of application areas
 - Link together different research groups in laboratory
- **Intelligent:**
 - Providing secure, intuitive, understandable interfaces to valuable data sets
- **Information Infrastructure:**
 - Provide communication networks and software connectivity in an interoperable fashion

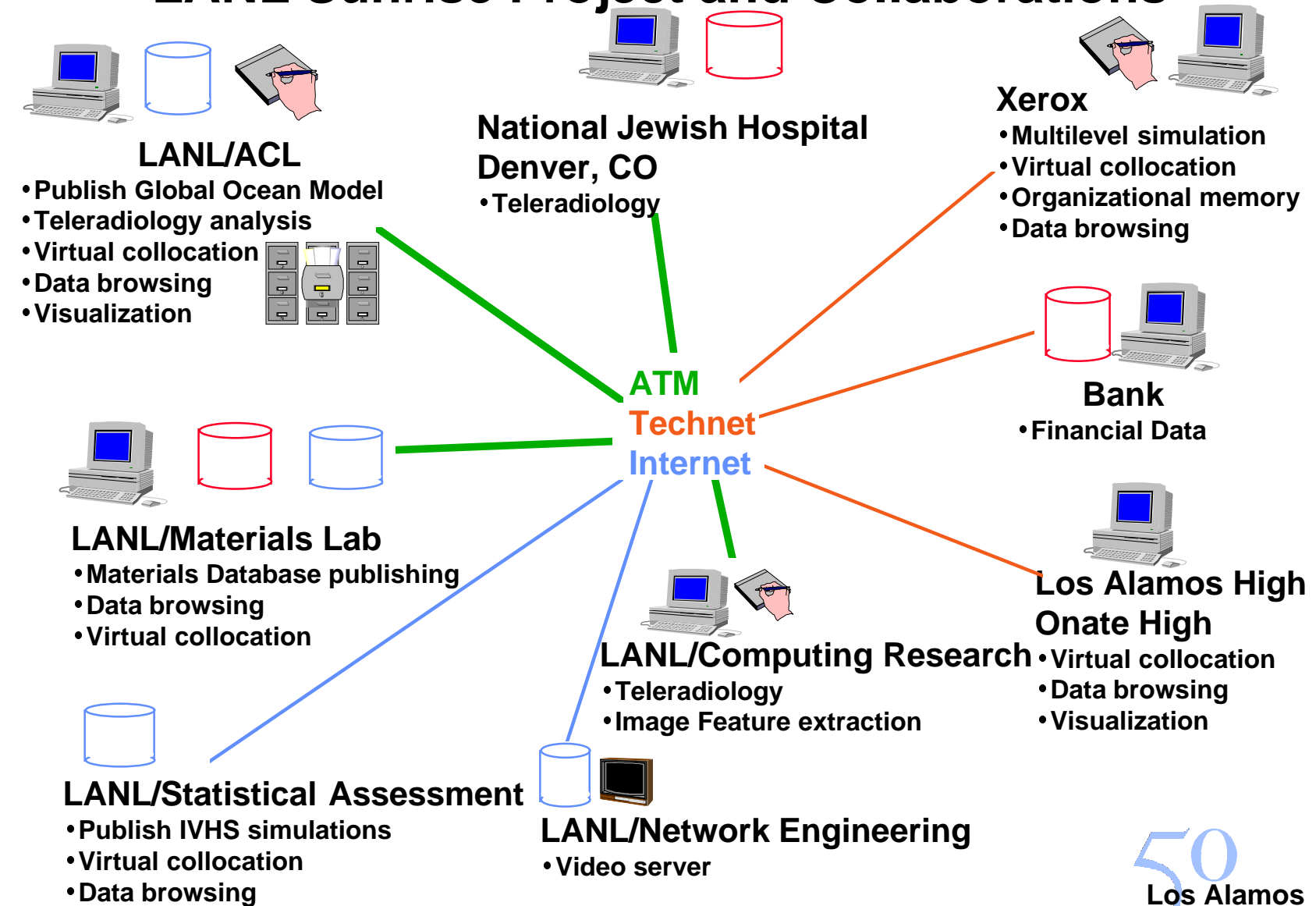
Enabling Technologies

- **Distributed Object Computing**
- **Data Fusion, Visualization**
- **ATM Networking**
- **Digital Video Service**
- **Data and Systems Security**
- **Data Mining Technology**

Embedded Applications

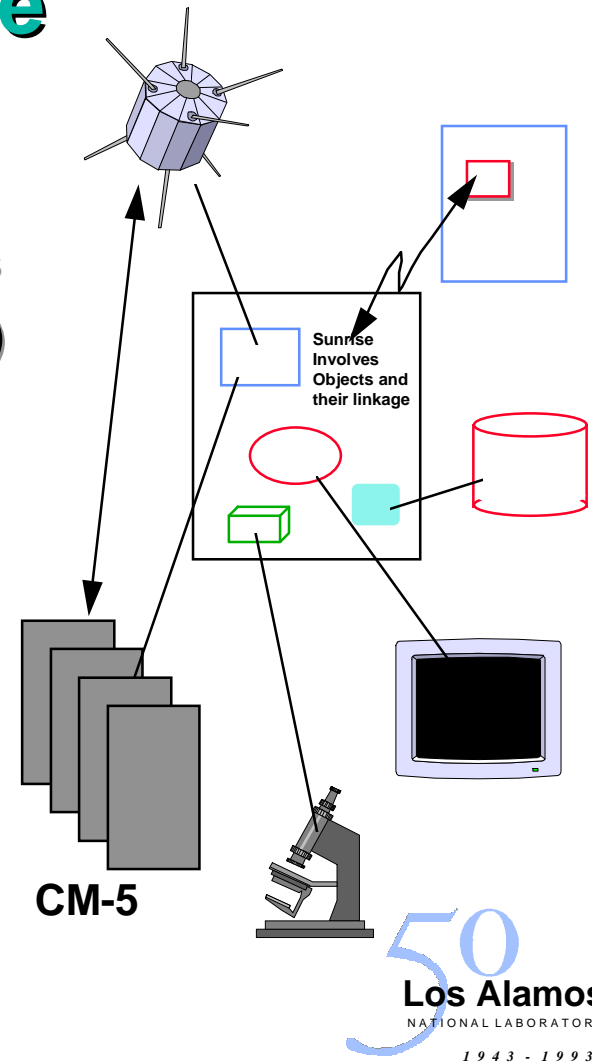
- **Materials Modeling**
- **Intelligent Vehicle Highway Systems**
- **Medical Applications**
- **Financial Applications**
- **Electronic Publications**
- **Education**

LANL Sunrise Project and Collaborations



Infrastructure

- **Distributed Object System**
 - Dynamic, hierarchical, desktop access
- **Document interface (OpenDoc)**
 - Nested , potentially remote, objects
 - Extensible
 - Heterogeneous platform support
 - Can link to scientific application
- **Multimedia support**
- **Security for each object**
- **ATM network**



Technology Reuse

- **Image Browsing tools**
 - Feature extraction works for materials, medical images, financial data, transportation networks
 - Extension of feature extraction to other domains
- **Standardized base objects**
 - Common elements such as abstracts, image, embeddability
- **Navigation tools**
 - Location finding, object name resolution, network display
 - Merge/purge to cull unneeded data (good for finance)
- **Digital video might be computer output or instrument output**
 - Data fusion combines different types of data

Rationale and Benefits

- **Builds on existing strengths of Laboratory in both computational science and in applied technologies.**
- **Combines these in an interdisciplinary manner to expose and build on commonalities (which actually compose the infrastructure).**
- **Will enable the Lab to be more competitive with intelligent use of information technologies in areas of strategic importance.**
- **Will provide a foundation to assist nation and apply to other areas (such as oil and gas).**
- **Industrial use of high performance distributed objects.**